



# HÔTEL DIEU,



A ~ General ~ Hospital,



EL PASO, TEXAS,







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# HÔTEL DIEU.



The geographical situation of El Paso; its numerous business, railroad and manufacturing interests; and the very large area of surrounding territory commercially tributary to this city, together with its unexcelled climate, are some of the reasons why a capacious, modern hospital should be found here—and just such a building is Hotel Dieu. It is one of the many name-sakes of that celebrated hospital in Paris, where those old French masters in medicine and surgery did the best part of their life-work.

Hotel Dieu, El Paso, was completed in 1894, and is modern in every respect. It has a capacity for about one hundred patients. The halls are large and commodious, and the rooms high-pitched and well ventilated. It is built of brick with brown stone trimmings, and its thick walls tend to make the indoor temperature more uniform, both in summer and winter. The building is heated by the hot water process, which is said to be the most san-

itary method. There is a large elevator which renders all of the hospital's five stories equally accessible. Besides the regular parlors there is a reading or lounging room on each floor. The library of the hospital contains many magazines and periodicals, and most of the standard literary works.

There are two operating rooms. The one on the first floor was completed in 1894 for emergency and septic cases. The other was built in 1897, and is on the top floor. It is a source of just pride to all who are interested in Hotel Dieu.

Competent eastern critics say that for modern aseptic appointments and facilities for doing the highest grade of surgical work its superior cannot be found in America. It has that first requisite for a good operating room—abundant light—for, in addition to a good sky-light, there are six windows in the northeast and six in the southwest sides of the room. The floor is tiled and the walls are tiled one-third of the way from the floor, and the rest of their area to the ceiling is finished with soap-stone, so every inch of surface in the operating room can be thoroughly washed. The operating table and the tables for the instruments, sponges, etc., are of glass and steel. Adjoining the operating room on one side is a small room in which the anesthetic is



HOTEL DIEU, EL PASO, TEXAS.

Photographed by Bushong & Feldman.

given, and on the other side, across from this, is a sterilizing room for preparing dressings and instruments. The basins in which the operator and assistants wash their hands have an arrangement by which hot or cold water may be turned off or on by

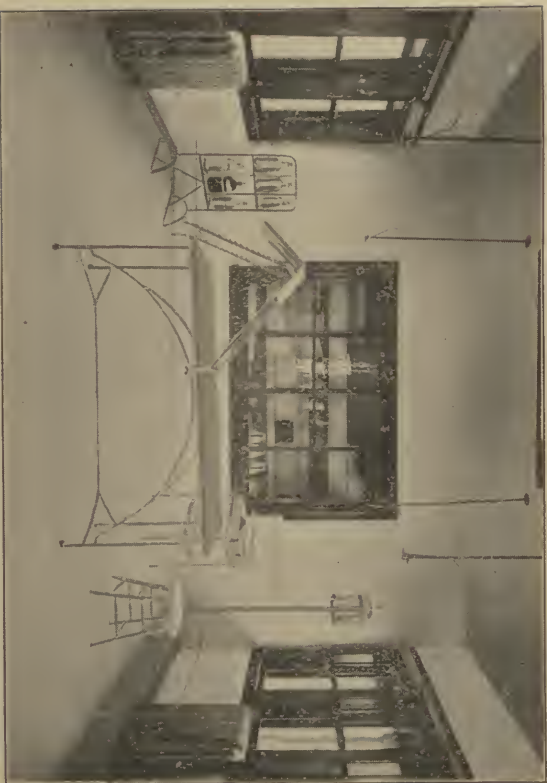


A Corner of the Operating Room.

foot-pedals, so that when once the hands are surgically clean, they need not be infected by touching the water faucet.

Probably there is no better way of illustrating the efficiency of these modern, surgical appliances





CHIEF OPERATING ROOM, HOTEL DIEU.

Photographed by Bushong & Feldman.

than by giving a partial list of the work done from June 1st, 1898, to the time of the present writing (August, 1898). During this time there has been no death in the hospital from an operation. Among the cases operated on in this period, all of whom recovered promptly, are six operations for appendicitis, three ovariectomies, two ventro-fixations of the uterus, one vaginal hysterectomy, one operation (Bassini) for radical cure of hernia, one nephrotomy, two laparotomies for exploratory purposes, a laparotomy for high pelvic abscess, an amputation of the arm and a large number of less important operations.

The hospital is a general hospital, but special attention is given to surgical cases, as it possesses every facility for their proper treatment that can be found in any eastern city. The record of work in this line so far is better than is obtained in many hospitals in the largest cities. It is under control of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. The nursing is done by the Sisters, assisted by trained nurses.

Ladies desiring skilled and careful nursing during the period of their confinement, will be received at the hospital. A special floor is set aside for these cases, and every effort is made to secure for them the privacy and comfort of home-life.



A Patients' Room in Hotel Dieu.

Photographed by Bushong & Feldman.

There is a training school for nurses in connection with Hotel Dieu, which, though recently started, is doing excellent work. Regular lectures are given on medicine, surgery, and nursing. Young ladies who wish to take a course of training can apply at any time.

The superintendent of nurses is Mrs. Annie E. Whelan, a graduate of Carney Hospital Training School, Boston, and ex-supervising nurse of St. Joseph's Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.

The opinion of business men seems so universal in predicting that El Paso will soon become the metropolis of the southwest, that comment on its advantages might appear superfluous. It is well known that seven railroad systems have their termini here. This city, with a population of 20,000, is the headquarters for mining supplies, and the cattle industry for hundreds of miles around.

The amusements that El Paso can furnish to convalescents are quite numerous. There is a fine and commodious opera house, where the best companies en route to or from California perform. There is also a music hall—Chopin Hall. Across the river, in Juarez, is a Mexican opera house. The livery service is good and drives down the Rio Grande



**Front Entrance, Hotel Dieu.**

Photographed by Bushong & Feldman.

Valley among the irrigated farms are most enjoyable. A public library and the plaza also contribute their share to the entertainment of visitors.

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